

Dr. Tasaki has made countless contributions to scientific understanding. He is well known for discovering the insulating function of the myelin sheath, the salutatory feature of nerve conduction, and the rapid swelling of nerve fibers in association with their excitation. He also developed an important method of intracellular perfusion and the new method of detecting heat production associated with nerve excitation. Dr. Tasaki's work is referred to in biology textbooks, and he is recognized as the most senior author of "Scholarpedia."

Madam Speaker, I am honored to commend Dr. Ichiji Tasaki for his significant contributions to scientific understanding. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding the advances he has made to improve the quality of life throughout the world.

RECOGNIZING BAKER CHAPEL AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH UPON THEIR 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church on its 100th anniversary.

Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church was founded in 1908 as a place of worship and institution of service to its community. The Reverend Walter McDonald, current Pastor, and the church membership have sought to minister to the spiritual, intellectual, physical, and emotional needs of the people of the surrounding area. For a century, BCAMEC has stood as an esteemed religious institution, serving as a beacon in Tarrant County to reach out to its neighbors and serve the misfortunate.

I recognize Baker Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church for their accomplishment of a century of service to the Fort Worth community. It is my privilege to represent the members of Baker Chapel in the 26th district of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BYRD SPENCER

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the accomplishments of William Byrd Spencer of Washington, DC. William Byrd Spencer, known to most as Bill, is considered one of Washington, DC's preeminent labor/management specialists and political strategists. Bill has worked in the government affairs division at the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), one of the Nation's largest construction trade associations, for 19 years, serving as ABC's chief political strategist for the last 8 years. During his time at ABC, Bill has covered all aspects of their government affairs activities and policy making, including legislative, political, legal and regulatory affairs. Many on Capitol Hill credit Bill's hard

work and tireless dedication to free enterprise and merit shop construction as a primary reason ABC is considered one of the most influential organizations in Washington today. Bill is widely respected by his peers, and counsels many Members of Congress on a variety of issues.

Bill received his bachelor of arts in International Relations from the University of Southern California and his juris doctor from the University of the Pacific's McGeorge School of Law in Sacramento. Bill came to Washington in 1987 to serve in the Reagan Administration where he worked in the Office of the Secretary at the United States Department of Commerce. In addition Bill has served in high level positions in numerous campaigns around the country.

Above all Bill is a consummate family man. He always finds the time to attend his daughter Kelsey's dance recitals and his son Will's baseball games with his wife Allison.

I know I am not the only Member of the United States Congress who wishes Bill all the best and to thank him for everything he has done.

HONORING CARL DICKERSON

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the life and contributions of Mr. Carl Dickerson as his family and friends join together to celebrate the joyous occasion of his 70th birthday. An innovative entrepreneur, community advocate, and tireless champion for civil rights and equality, Mr. Dickerson has contributed immensely to our society.

Carl Dickerson was born in McKeesport, Pennsylvania on September 12, 1938. Born into a loving family, Carl established a deep value system centered on hard work and close relationships which he has carried with him through his many lifetime accomplishments.

After graduating from high school, Carl served his country and pursued his education with an endless voracity and thirst for knowledge. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army College of Emergency Administrative Analysis in Battlecreek, Michigan, as well as of the U.S. Army Staff College of Nuclear Science in Sheeps Head Bay, New York. In 1960, Mr. Dickerson received his degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and went on to complete graduate work at Temple University.

Carl Dickerson's life has been filled with groundbreaking business ventures, community contributions, and accomplishments both as a recognized leader and astute businessman. For four years, Mr. Dickerson served our young people as a dedicated educator, teaching at West Philadelphia High School in Pennsylvania and at the University of California, San Francisco. In the business world, he served as the president of Echo911 and the Principal at IGP Tech.

Carl has always been relentlessly devoted to his community, and has spent the majority of his life donating his time and efforts to countless professional affiliations where he has served in numerous capacities and board positions. Just a small example of his many commitments includes being a member of

both the National and California Associations of Health Underwriters, founding member of the Academic Council of Insurance Planners, and Associate of the Black MBA Association. He has held myriad board positions for such community benefit organizations as the Los Angeles Community Lending Corporation, the Los Angeles Urban League, the Black Business Association, and the Center for Non Profit Management.

In light of all of these impressive accomplishments, however, Carl's most notable contribution has been as the creative and supportive president of Dickerson Employee Benefits, which he founded in 1965. As a result of Carl's activities, both political and civic, Dickerson Employee Benefits has maintained strong roots in minority communities throughout Southern California. The mission statement of Carl's business closely emulates the mission of Carl's life, which he lives up to everyday: "the belief that all people should have equal access to affordable healthcare."

Carl Dickerson is a successful entrepreneur who has never forgotten his roots, has always fought on behalf of those most in need in his community, and has remained acutely aware that equal opportunity and equal access for people of color is a cause still very much alive and in need of leaders like him. Most importantly, Carl has used his personal success to bring others up behind him.

Fortunately, I have had the honor of witnessing this man at work many times. His positive outlook, energetic spirit, and warm humor are always present no matter what task he has before him. Carl is constantly coming up with creative new ideas and inspiring people to soar to new heights and attempt things they never thought they would be able to do. Carl Dickerson is a man who can produce a sense of self-confidence and adventure in others which they would never find within themselves without his encouragement and guidance. In this way, not only is he a talented and successful person himself, but he has the incredibly rare ability to drive others to realize their full potential.

On behalf of the 9th Congressional District, it is my great pleasure to join Carl Dickerson's mother, wife, children, grandchildren, in-laws, and a host of loving family and friends as we celebrate the 70th birthday of this great man. Congratulations, and I wish you all the best in the coming years.

ON THE INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO EDUCATIONAL EQUITY MADE BY JAMES KETELSEN

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of James Ketelsen, the founder of Project GRAD, an education reform model that is transforming the hopes of tens of thousands of students and families across the country. Mr. Ketelsen has announced his intention of resigning as chair of the Project GRAD USA board of directors, and will become chair emeritus later this fall.

Mr. Ketelsen is the former CEO and chairman of Tenneco. Under Mr. Ketelsen's leadership, in 1988 Tenneco began to fund a 4-year

scholarship program for eligible graduates of Davis High School, at the time Houston's lowest-performing high school. By 1992, the number of Davis graduates entering college had more than quadrupled. Still, Mr. Ketelsen was not satisfied because high school graduation rates and college matriculation rates continued to fall short of his expectations. He knew, given the right investments and the right commitment, that Davis students—and all students from economically disadvantaged communities—were capable of much more. As Mr. Ketelsen is inclined to insist, "It's not the kids!" Armed with that belief, Mr. Ketelsen has dedicated the last two decades to making an enormous difference for America's highest needs students.

I have been a longtime supporter of Project GRAD in Congress and was pleased to be able to get a provision into the recently-enacted Higher Education Opportunity Act to expand Project GRAD so that more low-income and minority students can attend college and earn degrees. Today, Project GRAD has expanded to 13 communities and reaches more than 120,000 students and families from California to New York, Alaska to Georgia. In the longest-served group of schools, GRAD scholars are completing college at a rate 92 percent above the national average for students from similar demographic backgrounds. A statistically significant sample of GRAD scholarship recipients who have completed college shows that the proportion who graduated with majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics—concentrations of dire need for the national economy and national security—exceeded the national average for minority students by 71 percent. In the coming academic year, more than 7,500 students will be in college, funded by a Project GRAD scholarship. GRAD has already sent high school graduates to more than 100 institutions of higher education, including many of the most highly selective colleges and universities in the Nation. At the beginning of high school, many Project GRAD students would never have dreamed of attending Harvard, Yale, MIT, Cornell, Emory, Georgetown, Rice, Texas, Virginia, or Amherst, yet because of Mr. Ketelsen's vision, determination, and remarkable leadership, Project GRAD has altogether altered those expectations.

I am honored to know James Ketelsen personally and I am grateful for the tenacity and passion with which he has served America's children and families. I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing the gratitude of the U.S. Congress for the extensive contributions to education and our society that he made during his lifetime.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RUSH D. HOLT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 10, 2008

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that the House is considering today S. 2617, the Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Act of 2008. If enacted, this bill would require the Secretary of Veterans Af-

fairs to provide a COLA to veterans receiving disability compensation and other select VA beneficiaries that matches the cost-of-living increase rates of Social Security beneficiaries. The increase would take effect December 1, 2008.

I am pleased that this Congress has kept its promises to America's veterans. Last year, we passed the largest single funding increase in the history of the VA, and I am hopeful that we will continue to increase funding for key VA programs over the coming year. In the meantime, it is necessary for us to meet some other basic challenges facing our veterans, and the bill before us addresses one of those challenges.

Many veterans live on fixed incomes, and thus have been very hard hit by recent increases in prices for food, gasoline, and other essentials. By passing this COLA, we will give veterans across America the additional financial assistance they need to care for themselves and their families. The Senate passed this bill in July 2008. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I urge the President to sign it as soon as it reaches his desk.

HONORING MARK TEETERS OF NAPA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

HON. MIKE THOMPSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark Teeters, who is being honored as the Napa County 2009 Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Teeters is entering his ninth year as Director of Choral Activities at Vintage High School in Napa. He also serves as chair of the Vintage High Visual and Performing Arts Department.

Under his leadership, the Vintage High School choir has ascended to elite status, winning gold medals at competitions around the world. They are a fixture at community events and contribute greatly to the cultural and artistic vitality of the Napa Valley. During the past 4 years, they have performed two extremely well-received musicals: *Les Misérables* and *Miss Saigon*.

As a lifelong Napan, Mr. Teeters not only uses his considerable talents to serve his students, but the community at large as well. He serves as Music Director at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Napa and co-conducts the Napa Valley Chorale, a local community choir.

A great teacher can have an impact on a young person that lasts forever. All of us can remember a teacher that has had a profound influence on our lives. Mr. Teeters has had this impact on hundreds of his students and is a sterling example of the best his profession has to offer. Under the constant specter of budget cuts to art and music programs, Mr. Teeters works tirelessly to ensure music education continues to play an important role in the life of his students.

Madam Speaker and colleagues, it is my distinct pleasure to recognize Mark Teeters for the leadership, guidance and inspiration he has provided to hundreds of young people throughout his career. I join the entire community in thanking him for his service and wishing him continued success.

RECOGNIZING THE WORKFORCE MOSAIC AND THEIR ROLE IN THE ANCOR 2008 GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES SEMINAR

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize all the good people at Mosaic, who have come to Washington, D.C. to take part in the American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR, 2008 Governmental Activities Seminar.

Mosaic, a disability advocacy organization based in my Congressional district, has a long history of providing direct support and services to individuals with disabilities of all ages. It employs more than 5,000 employees nationally who provide a range of supports 7 days a week, 24-hours a day. In Omaha, Mosaic's highly skilled and committed workforce support more than 250 individuals, making Mosaic one of the largest providers in the metropolitan area.

Throughout this week, people from Mosaic, along with the attendees at ANCOR's events are meeting with their Congressional offices to raise awareness about the need for an adequately paid, trained and dedicated workforce. Most direct support professionals are women with families working 40-hour work weeks at an average of \$9.47 an hour. That amounts to an annual salary of \$18,182, a figure below the \$21,200 poverty level for a family of four. Low wages have been a prime obstacle in maintaining a qualified workforce. Unlike other sectors of the private market, the formal long-term supports system is almost entirely dependent upon public financing—particularly Medicaid funding.

Demand for direct support professionals continues to grow and is estimated to increase by about 38 percent over the next 12 years. We must ensure that qualified and reliable people are recruited as caregivers so that they in turn can help individuals with disabilities participate and contribute to their communities.

Madam Speaker, there is no better way to recognize this workforce's contribution to the Nation than to ensure that these dedicated direct support professionals are fairly compensated. I urge my colleagues to join with me in cosponsoring the bipartisan Direct Support Professionals Fairness and Security Act, H.R. 1279.

REMEMBER THOSE KILLED ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 11, 2008

Mr. MICA. Madam Speaker, As our Nation reflects upon the day of the terrorist attacks 7 years ago this week, I cannot forget my friends who were killed by terrorists that day.

Some 7 weeks before September 11, 2001, I spent several days in New York City with Neal Levin, executive director of the Port Authority New York and New Jersey. I met Neal when he was the legislative director to Senator Al D'Amato of New York and when I was